



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
parks and recreation

A-1

07/22/08

Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
401 N. Morton St.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carter at 4:05 p.m.

Board Present: John Carter, Les Coyne, Jane St. John

Staff Present: Mick Renneisen, Judy Seigle, Cheryll Elmore, Becky Barrick, Dave Fox, Kim Ecenbarger, Larry Richardson, Bev Johnson, Daren Eads, JD Boruff, Leslie Brinson, Julie Ramey, Dave Williams, Lindsay Buuck, Steve Cotter

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of May 27, 2008 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted May 28 – June 23, 2008
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Public Comment Period

No public comment at this time.

B-2. Bravo Award

Ms. Brinson addressed the Board and presented the June Bravo Award to Troy Sego. Mr. Sego has been involved with the Bloomington Youth Basketball Program since the 2005-06 season and has volunteered numerous hours teaching youth athletes the fundamentals of basketball. He has been a great role model for other coaches as well as players and parents. During the 2007-08 season the Bloomington Youth Basketball Program joined with the Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA Program. This program gave staff the opportunity to nominate top coaches in the area for a Coach of the Year Award. Mr. Sego was the nominee chosen from our program and in turn was chosen as one of the top 32 coaches in the US out of over 83,000 applications.

Mr. Sego addressed the Board and thanked them for this recognition. He said it has been a great pleasure working with the youth in the community. He also acknowledged Ms. Brinson for her hard work and dedication. He encourages many youth to participate in the Bloomington Youth Basketball Program.

B-3. Parks Partner Award – IU School of Optometry

Ms. Ecenbarger addressed the Board and presented the Winter/Spring 2008 Parks Partner Award to the IU School of Optometry. The IU School of Optometry plays a key role in the Children's Expo and the Senior Expo by providing free vision screenings to participants. For the past two years, they have been the exclusive, top-level sponsor of the Children's Expo. The School was started in 1952 and optometry classes were first offered in 1953. The clinic saw its first patient in 1955 and in 1958 the School began performing school vision screenings, both locally and across the state. In addition to the clinic on Atwater, they also have two other clinics in Bloomington, two clinics in Indianapolis, one in Mexico, and other contacts in Thailand and the Netherlands. They are currently constructing a new clinic on Third Street which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

Dr. Don Lyons, Chief of Pediatrics/Binocular Vision Services addressed the Board and thanked them for this award. He stated that events such as the Senior Expo and Children's Expo are a great benefit to the community. They provide fun activities for families and allows the School of Optometry to educate the public on the need for proper eye care. These events allow the School to talk to other local organizations and form partnerships with the goal of helping families and children in the Bloomington area.

B-4. Staff Milestones – Larry Richardson (40 years) Dave Williams (15 years)

Mr. Williams addressed the Board and recognized the 40th milestone anniversary of Larry Richardson. He stated that Mr. Richardson has worked in the facilities maintenance division of the department for the better part of his career. He plays a huge role in the operations of the pools and the ice rink, along with other facilities. Mr. Richardson has a great work attitude, he works well with his co-workers and has been an exemplary team player in the Operations Division for 40 years. Mr. Williams extended his appreciation to Mr. Richardson for his years of dedication.

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board and acknowledged the 15 year anniversary of Dave Williams. Mr. Williams has been dedicated and knowledgeable and has taken on many responsibilities during his 15 years with the department. Mr. Renneisen credited Mr. Williams for overseeing the renovations to Miller Showers and Lower Cascades Parks, along with the Clear Creek Trail project and the B-Line Trail. He initiated a system for tracking renovations and capital improvements for all of the department properties and equipment. In addition to the facility and park maintenance responsibilities that were originally part of Mr. Williams' responsibilities, the Urban Forestry, Cemeteries, and Landscaping Divisions have all been added during the past 15 years. He is also responsible for overseeing 2,300 acres of property. The Natural Resources area and expanding trail system have also grown dramatically during his tenure. He has been responsible for the design and replacement of 20 of the system's 26 playgrounds and has been closely involved in the acquisition of 31 parcels of property totaling over 568 acres of land (approximately one fourth of the department's total property).

Mr. Williams addressed the Board and thanked the previous administrator, Norm Merrifield, for giving him the opportunity to work in his home town. He also thanked the Board and Mr. Renneisen for their continued support and his staff for their dedication.

Mr. Coyne added his thanks to Mr. Williams, stating that he is extremely dedicated and sets very high standards and feels the community owes him a lot for his continued efforts to maintain excellence.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1. Review/Approval of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Master Plan Update

Mr. Cotter addressed the Board seeking approval of the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve (GLNP) Master Plan. He introduced Sarah Peel with JF New and Associates.

Ms. Peel presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation that explained the components of the plan. She stated that a number of surveys were conducted to determine the types of floral and fauna that are present at GLNP. There are 100 individual types of mammals representing 7 small mammal species, 11 medium/large mammal species and 3 bat species. Approximately 160 bird species were observed, 20 "species of special concern" including the Cerulean

Warbler, and a high density of Canadian Geese. There were 31 reptile/amphibian species found and more than 575 botanic species were identified. Ten plant communities were mapped, and 192 acres of exotic species were found. The erosion areas were mapped and areas that need to be addressed were identified. The north shore near the “dog park” is a prominent erosive area. The south shoreline also has severe erosion that needs to be addressed. A number of steeply sloped trails need to be addressed and updated signage should be provided. Some parking concerns include exposed poles that have worn away from the stop logs, lack of access to the north shore trail, and slippery board walks. There is also regular flooding of the parking lot.

User survey findings:

- Most users visit GLNP 2 or more times per week
- 99% of respondents hike/walk at GLNP
- 46% indicated the need for uniform signage
- 27% feel nothing is wrong at GLNP
- 21% thought that trails are not long enough
- Most users indicated little need for a nature center
- Nearly half would participate in a “Friends of Griffy” Group if one existed
- 26% stated off-leash dogs are the biggest issue

The overuse of the area by dogs continues to be a concern at GLNP and it is recommended the department discontinue allowing this area to be used as an “unofficial dog park.” The water quality of the lake appears to be good and stable, with very little change over the past 18 years. There are some sediment issues that need to be addressed. The watershed areas need to be addressed to improve the overall water quality at the lake. Based on depth measurements, about 380 acre-feet, or 4 inches overall, have been lost over the past two decades. The consultant team is currently in the process of compiling the reviewer comments. The Plan was presented to the City of Bloomington Utilities Service Board on June 23 and the Park Board now has three days to submit comments to the consultants in order to be included in the final report.

Ms. St. John thanked Ms. Peel for all of her work and stated that the consultants and review teams have been very thorough.

Mr. Coyne added his thanks to the team and is very glad to have this information and looks forward to implementing changes recommended in the report. He added that Griffy is a major asset to the City and the department has an obligation to do what is necessary to protect it.

Mr. Carter thanked the members of the steering committee and the public for their input. He is very impressed with the document and said it looks like a good plan.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Master Plan. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with Indiana University RPTS, Eppley Institute, Convention and Visitors Bureau and IPRA to Host the 2009 IPRA State Conference

Mr. Renneisen addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement with Indiana University Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Studies (RPTS), the Eppley Institute, the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), and Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) to host the 2009 IPRA State Conference. The conference is scheduled for January 21-23 at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center. He stated that this conference has been held in Indianapolis for many years and this is the first time Bloomington has hosted it. Bloomington was one of ten cities that bid on the conference, and the staff is very pleased to have been awarded the bid. This conference is an opportunity for vendors, equipment providers, IU students, faculty, and parks professionals from the state to participate in educational sessions. Staff anticipates that the event will generate \$91,500 in economic impact for the community. Mr. Renneisen introduced Steve Waltz, the IPRA Executive Director; Mike McAfee, Executive Director of the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau; and Steve Wolter, Executive Director of the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands.

Mr. Waltz addressed the Board and stated that this is an adventure, having held the conference in Indianapolis for the past 8-10 years. There are about 400 participants expected to attend this conference and there are a lot of positive pluses to holding the conference in Bloomington.

Mr. Coyne stated that he feels Bloomington can really do a good job hosting this conference and he's glad to see the event is being held here.

Mr. McAfee addressed the Board and stated that he is pleased to see this organization was willing to give Bloomington the chance to host this conference and he is confident that everyone will be pleased.

Mr. Renneisen acknowledged the role of the Eppley Institute in the planning efforts of this conference.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with IU RPTS, Eppley Institute, Bloomington/Monroe County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the IPRA to host the 2009 IPRA State Conference. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-3. Review/Approval of Contract for Design Services for Phase II of the B-Line Trail with Cornerstone Planning and Design

Mr. Williams addressed the Board seeking approval of the contract with Cornerstone Planning and Design for design services for the Phase II of the B-Line Trail. Cornerstone Planning & Design will provide landscape architecture services for the design of both the Rogers to Adams and 2nd to Grimes sections of the B-Line Trail. The design will include street crossings, 2nd Street Median, lighting, site furnishings, amenities, and landscaping. Construction of this phase is anticipated to begin in 2009 and will be funded by the City of Bloomington and a \$900,000 State Trails grant. Preliminary estimated construction costs are \$3,825,000. He added that the Redevelopment Commission previously granted funding approval for these services. The contract total is \$76,000.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the contract for design services for Phase II of the B-Line Trail with Cornerstone Planning & Design for \$76,000. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-4. Review/Approval of Contract for Design Services for Phase II of the B-Line Trail with Butler, Fairman & Seufert

Mr. Williams addressed the Board seeking approval of the contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert totaling \$272,000 for civil engineering design services for Phase II of the B-Line Trail. This phase will include the engineering design services for both the Rogers to Adams and 2nd to Grimes sections of the trail. The design will include five street crossings, 2nd Street median, pedestrian trailhead at Adams Street, pedestrian connections, utilities, overhead protection under the Fairview railroad bridge, safety signage, coordination with required environmental remediation, and related services. Construction on this trail phase is anticipated to begin in early fall of 2009 and will be funded by the City of Bloomington and a \$900,000 State Trails grant. The Redevelopment Commission has approved this contract for payment from the TIF as well.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the contract for design services for Phase II of the B-Line Trail with Butler, Fairman & Seufert for \$272,000. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

D. REPORTS

D-1. Operations Division – Clear Creek Trail Survey Presentation – Eppley Institute for Parks/Public Lands

Mr. Wolter addressed the Board and presented them with the Clear Creek Trail Survey results. He stated that this survey was completed in partnership with the Operations Division. The Operations Division purchased and installed counters and the Eppley Institute also purchased counters and provided the manpower to conduct the surveys. The surveys were conducted of 487 participants as users were entering or exiting the trail during the months of January – October 2007. Surveys were only conducted on adults 18 and older, of which 56% were female, and 44% male. The satisfaction level was very high with an average rating of 6.3 on a 7.0 scale. The users primarily used the trail in the early mornings or in the evenings. Most trail users were alone or with one other

person. Tapp Road is the most popular entry-exit point. The second most used entry-exit point is Church Lane. However, the lack of entry-exit use at That Road is surprising given the size of the parking area. The biggest turnaround spot is Church Lane with most turnarounds at roadways. While 2007 data is not yet available, monthly usage data from 2005 indicates high usage during April – September with nearly 8,000 users per month during those warmer months. Survey results indicate that the trail is used by people that live near the trail with most people indicating they travel only 5-10 minutes to get to the trail. This indicates that most users are from Perry Township, with a few from Bloomington Township and a few from Van Buren Township. Most other township representation was not very high. The primary reason for people to use the trail is for exercise. Of those surveyed, 23% said they did not participate in an activity related to this (biking, walking, etc) before the trail was developed, 14% would not do this activity at all if the trail was not there and 38% would not do it as often.

The survey results imply that:

- community physical activity levels increase when a trail is nearby
- results are clear about distance from home - proximity to trails correlates to increased use
- health and recreation benefits for the community are related to proximity of trails

Mr. Wolter stated that this information can be very beneficial in developing future trails.

Ms. St. John stated that she thought this information was very informative. She found it interesting that many people discovered the trail by “driving by.” This indicates that more should be done to promote the trail.

Mr. Coyne asked about capacity and overcrowding.

Mr. Wolter stated that the, according to the survey results, the trail does not appear to be overcrowded. He also stated that in other Indiana surveys, the major concerns for trail users were the lack of restrooms and overuse of the trails by dogs. He encourages staff to enforce leash laws on the trails.

Mr. Coyne thanked Mr. Wolter and the Eppley Institute for all of their work and for being such a great local resource for this type of service.

Mr. Carter stated that he can see ways that the department’s new Health and Wellness Coordinator can work to increase promotion/use of the trails. He would also like to see the trail promoted more.

D-3. Recreation Division – No Report

D-4. Administration Division – No Report

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Seigle, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners